

Elaine

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May 2, 2015

Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Ste. 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you regarding the United States Navy's fast-track plan to put an Electronic Warfare Range on the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. This plan includes portions of Olympic National Park. I am sure you are aware that Olympic National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and features three distinct ecosystems: the Olympic Mountains, old-growth rain forest, and the wilderness Pacific Coast. It is unlike any other place in this part of the world, the jewel in our crown.

The Navy's plan includes a 10-fold increase in growler jet traffic over the Peninsula, with the resulting noise pollution, air pollution, and watershed damage due to particulates. In addition, they plan to install electromagnetic radiation-emitting truck-and-trailer combinations, which would entail numerous unannounced forest closures and other problems. The Navy proposes to rotate three mobile emitters among 14 sites in the Olympic National Forest, and to build one large fixed emitter at Pacific Beach. The radiation emitted by these devices is strong enough to melt eye tissue with short exposure at close proximity.

The environmental damage will be monumental, to many species of flora and fauna, to the precious watershed, and to the marine mammal population. The Navy estimates 100,000 marine mammals will be killed each year — apparently considered "collateral damage."

We cannot afford to let this happen. Last year 3.1 million visitors came to Olympic National Park, to enjoy the solace and peace of one of the last great places. The Roosevelt elk, the owls, recently re-introduced wolves, the rain forest with its unique flora and fauna — these are precious living beings and they matter. We share the earth, we don't own it.

Please help us to avert this tragedy, so that we may all take our children and grandchildren to the beautiful Olympic Peninsula for many years to come, free from worry about radiation, hearing loss, and polluted air and water. We have a chance to keep something irreplaceable from being destroyed. I hope you will add your voice in support of the preservation of Olympic National Park. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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